



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2007

No. 121

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WELCH of Vermont).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 26, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, Your law and Your prophets lead Your people to You. To follow them and discover enlightened truth only about the present age is to end up in a blind alley.

May all lawmakers this day know Your presence and seek Your guidance, that they may lead to true justice and lasting peace. Otherwise, Your people are left to flounder.

Without You we are left with nothing and accomplish only a mayhem of action without focus or direction.

You are the way, the truth, and life, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 190. Concurrent resolution authorizing printing of the brochure entitled "How Our Laws Are Made", the document-sized, annotated version of the United States Constitution, and the pocket version of the United States Constitution.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1642. An act to extend the authorization of programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 1716. An act to amend the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007, to strike a requirement relating to forage producers.

S. 1877. An act to amend title 4, United States Code, to prescribe that members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of flag.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE FARM BILL AND REFORMING CROP INSURANCE

(Mr. COOPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, the one thing that we should all be able to agree on in this House regarding the upcoming farm bill is the need to reform crop insurance. The folks back home are demanding that we cut Federal spending, and this is not only a great way to do it, it is probably the best way to do it.

There are only 16 crop insurance companies in America, but, sadly, each one is addicted to corporate welfare from Washington. Reforming these companies can save at least \$2 billion a year without hurting a single farmer. Let's stop these middlemen from taking 40 cents out of every dollar the taxpayers offer to help the American farmer.

The Cooper-Waxman-McGovern amendment unites this House, from conservative Blue Dogs to progressive Members. It is a bipartisan approach. We simply adopt the reform proposals of the Bush administration. That is all we do. These are not radical ideas; these are USDA approved. But these ideas will save over \$2 billion a year. It won't kill the industry; it will just trim back the massive subsidy flows.

Farm bill supporters should also endorse these because they reduce the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H8621

need for new revenue, and the Agriculture Committee itself recognizes the need for reform. They just want to do it in the next farm bill.

THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, being from Tennessee, the Volunteer State, I volunteered to visit the men and women in uniform in Iraq this past weekend. I wasn't disappointed. Our troops are well trained, well motivated, and successful.

During my visit to Iraq, I visited Ramadi, which until just a few months ago was a killing field overrun by al Qaeda. For the past 4 years, the people of Ramadi were caught in a decision-making battle of which group, us or the extremists, offered them the best chance for a normal and free existence.

The insurgent extremists chose to win the local people over with the use of force, force against our American troops and against any local who did not support their radical agenda. Our troops, on the other hand, have reached out with friendship and support.

The local people, seeing the difference, have chosen to have their lives return to normal and live in freedom. Ramadi has gone from a city of death and destruction to one of rebuilding and hope. I was able to see it firsthand.

The cost to the American family is just too great to allow any other outcome than success in the global war on terror. We must win this war to protect our American way of life, now and into the future.

A QUOTE FROM DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, a man from Kansas said, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, and the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron." Dwight David Eisenhower, April 16, 1953.

I ask that the rest of my time be in silence for those who have died in Iraq, Americans and Iraqis.

AL QAEDA IN IRAQ

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, some Members of Congress are proposing legislation that would attempt to develop a new military strategy for our troops in Iraq. This meddling by politicians ties the hands of our capable military. We should trust in the leadership of GEN David Petraeus and not second-guess his efforts to protect American families.

Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, former Democratic Vice Presidential candidate, recently said, "The fanatics . . . who exhort the tens of thousands to shout 'Death to America' . . . don't distinguish between Republicans and Democrats . . . and we should have the common sense, let alone the sense of responsibility to our country, to come together to defend our Nation against those who want to destroy us."

Failing to secure Iraq will provide a fertile ground for terrorist safe havens, threatening America and our allies. Osama bin Laden and Zawahiri have both stated that Iraq is a central front in the global war on terror. We must stop the terrorists overseas and not face them again in the streets of America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

AL QAEDA

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week the National Intelligence Estimate report stated that al Qaeda is the most serious threat to the U.S. homeland.

On Tuesday President Bush flew to my home State of South Carolina to speak to troops in Charleston. In his speech he reminded the Nation of the threat that al Qaeda poses to our Nation and the stability of Iraq. The threat is real.

I would like to share with you a Fourth of July blog entry from Lieutenant Colonel Clarence Bowser, who is currently serving with the South Carolina National Guard in Kandahar, Afghanistan:

"I am so proud of my service here and to this Nation. I don't know the politics; I'll leave that to the politicians. But it is my prayer for their leadership and that we as a Nation do the right thing for this country and Iraq."

Mr. Speaker, my hope and my prayer is that we as politicians have the courage to do the same: win this fight.

THE FARM BILL: URGING SUPPORT FOR THE KIND-FLAKE AMENDMENT

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is a bipartisan instinct in Congress that has been evident for years.

We all want to reform our farm policies in the "next" farm bill. That is why the bill that is coming forward from the Agriculture Committee couldn't find any way to reform the crop insurance program. Luckily, it looks as though the Rules Committee will make in order a rule that will force that upon the committee, saving up to 40 cents on the dollar.

There are no meaningful limitations on extraordinarily wealthy farmers. They talk about reform, but the limitation raises only \$46 million a year from 3,175 farmers. And if the farmer can't get their adjusted gross income under \$1 million, they ought to get a new CPA.

I strongly urge my colleagues to just read some of the news accounts like this morning's Washington Post that talks about what is in this bill. And if you do, I think you will join with us in supporting the Kind-Flake amendment.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE STEARNS-BLACKBURN AMENDMENT

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the concerns of many of our small businesses in the Seventh District of Tennessee. The ongoing debate over illegal immigration has brought many issues to light. While this issue is trudging its way through Congress, small businesses are stuck trying to figure out how to confront the problems of illegal immigration that are created at the local level.

For instance, these businesses should have the right to refuse to hire or fire a person who cannot speak English. An employer who signs the paycheck and pays payroll taxes, and their customers, should be able to communicate with an employee. But under current law that small businessman can be sued by the Federal Government for refusing to hire or in some cases firing a person who cannot communicate in English. As ridiculous as this sounds, it is true.

That is why today I will offer a commonsense amendment to the Commerce-Justice-State approps bill that will close the ridiculous loophole and offer some protection to the businesses that drive our economy and employ our citizens.

I urge all of my colleagues to join this effort to protect our mom-and-pop businesses, not because it is a hard line against illegal immigration, but because it is the right thing to do.

□ 1015

LET'S NOT ALLOW GENOCIDE TO CONTINUE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)